

Appl. No. 09/998,386  
Amdt. dated 12/07/2004  
Reply to Office Action of 09/08/2004

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 44 are pending in the present Application. In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claim 5 and rejected Claims 1, 12, 23 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nielsen. Claims 2 - 11, 13 - 22, 24 - 33 and 35 - 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nielsen in view of DeStefano.

In reviewing the Specification, Applicants have encountered a typographical/grammatical error which has been corrected.

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 12, 23 and 34 to better claim the invention. In so doing, Applicants have incorporated the limitations of Claims 2, 13, 24 and 35 into the respective independent claims. Consequently Claims 2, 13, 24 and 35 have been canceled. Further, as a result of the amendments to independent Claims 1, 12, 23 and 34, independent Claims 11, 22, 33 and 44 have become redundant and are also canceled. Claims 3 - 9, 14 - 20 and 36 - 42 have been amended to reflect their new dependency.

For the reasons stated more fully below, Applicants submit that the claims are allowable over the applied references. Hence, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

As stated in the SPECIFICATION, links are displayed in a fashion that allows users to identify them as such. For example, a link may be underlined or may be in a different color than the rest of the text within which it is embedded

AUS920010875US1

Page 11 of 15

Appl. No. 09/998,386  
Amdt. dated 12/07/2004  
Reply to Office Action of 09/08/2004

or both. Although links are ordinarily presented in an identifiable fashion, sometimes it may not be very easy for a user to so identify the links. For instance, when the color used to display a link is the same or very close to the background color of a screen on which the Web page is displayed, a user may not be able to identify the link as such. Furthermore, users have often times mistaken an underlined phrase as a link.

The present invention allows a user to make links embedded in a Web page clearly recognizable as such when the links are perceived to be not easily identifiable by the user. In accordance with the teachings of the invention, if a user is unable to clearly recognize links embedded in a Web document as such, the user may highlight the links.

The invention is set forth in claims of varying scopes of which Claim 1 is illustrative.

1. A method of making links that are not easily identified in a displayed Web document by a user to be clearly recognizable comprising the steps of:  
    displaying the Web document; and  
    upon user command, highlighting the links. (Emphasis added.)

The Examiner conceded that Nielsen does not teach "highlighting links by a user," but, nonetheless rejected Claims 2, 13, 24 and 35. As support for the rejection of the claims, the Examiner stated that DeStefano teaches such limitations. Therefore, the Examiner reasoned, it would have been obvious for one in the art to combine the teachings of Nielsen with those of DeStefano to arrive at AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386  
Amdt. dated 12/07/2004  
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the claimed invention since "it would have provided the capability of facilitating the control of highlighting the URLs displaying in HTML document." Applicants respectfully disagree.

Nielsen purports to provide a scheme to determine whether or not Web pages represented by links embedded in a displayed document are accessible before a user attempts to access the pages. To do so, Nielsen teaches that access to each Web page represented by an embedded link in a displayed Web document is automatically attempted as soon as the page is displayed. If there is no response within a certain period of time after an access has been attempted, then it is assumed that the Web page is inaccessible. Consequently, the appearance of the link is changed to alert the user that the Web page is inaccessible at the present time. The presumption is that an alerted user will not waste time attempting to access the page.

Thus, as the Examiner so correctly stated, Nielsen does not teach, show or suggest highlighting links that are not easily identifiable in the displayed Web document upon user command, as claimed.

DeStefano, on the other hand, teaches a method to allow users to customize which and/or how links between named concepts are presented to the users. Particularly, DeStefano teaches that information from a body of knowledge may be maintained in one or more information elements, at least a portion of which is associated with one or more named concepts that may be related to one another in any number of logically-relevant ways (e.g., being similar to or different from one another, being members of a common

AUS920010875US1

Page 13 of 15

Appl. No. 09/998,386  
Amdt. dated 12/07/2004  
Reply to Office Action of 09/08/2004

set or group, etc.). Links are defined between two or more of such named concepts so that information elements associated with named concepts linked together via a link may be visually represented to a user in such a manner that the logical relationship between such named concepts is apparent to the user.

In certain embodiments, DeStefano teaches, a user may be permitted to customize which and/or how links between the named concepts are presented to the user. For example, an author of a specific body of knowledge may have the capability to select which and/or how links between the named concepts are presented to different types of users to optimize the learning process for as many users as possible.

However, just as in the case of Nielsen, DeStefano does not teach, show or suggest highlighting links that are not easily identifiable in the displayed Web document upon user command, as claimed.

Consequently, combining the teachings of Nielsen with those of DeStefano would not teach, show or suggest the invention.

Nonetheless, even if DeStefano did teach a method of highlighting links if that are not easily identifiable in the displayed Web document upon user command, as claimed, there would not be any reason to combine DeStefano's teachings with those of Nielsen.

As alluded to above, the crux of the teachings of Nielsen is the fact that access to Web pages represented by embedded links in a displayed Web document is automatically attempted and to change the appearance of an embedded link

AUS920010875US1

Page 14 of 15

Appl No. 09/998,386  
Amdt. dated 12/07/2004  
Reply to Office Action of 09/08/2004

in the displayed document if the Web page is inaccessible. By automatically doing so, it saves the user the time and effort it would have taken the user to find out that the Web page is inaccessible. Based on the purpose behind the teachings of Nielsen, Applicants fail to see how the two teachings could be combined together.

Therefore, Applicants submit that present Claim 1 and its dependent claims should be allowable over the cited references. Independent Claims 12, 23 and 34 and their respective dependent claims, which all incorporate the above-emboldened-italicized limitations shown in the reproduced Claim 1 above, should be allowable as well.

Therefore, Applicants once more respectfully request reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the claims in the application.

Respectfully submitted,  
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AUS92001087SUS1

Page 15 of 15